

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to applicant's representative during a telephone interview on July 12, 2006. During that interview, the Examiner indicated that the arguments as set forth below along with corresponding claim amendments would overcome the previous rejections. However, the Examiner has not yet reviewed the precise nature of the amendments made above and stated that such amendments would necessitate further consideration.

Briefly, Park does not contemplate a hierarchy of routing devices interposed between a network device of interest and a public network. Therefore, Park does not teach or suggest a protocol for routing data packets in such an environment. The Examiner relies upon Frietsch to teach this aspect of the present invention. However, Frietsch is concerned with learning a routing path in a public network but not necessarily routing data packets along the path. Frietsch did not consider extending such techniques to a private network. Moreover, since routing was of no concern, Frietsch does not teach or suggest how to maintain a stack of addresses when routing data packets across a public network/private network interface. For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that it is improper to combine the teachings of Park with Frietsch. Pending claims have been amended to further define these distinctions from the relied upon references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the current rejections.

Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 18, 2006

By: 

Timothy D. MacIntyre
Reg. No. 42,824

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

TDM/drl